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An
Inaugural Essay

On
Gastritis Paperd March 4. 1829

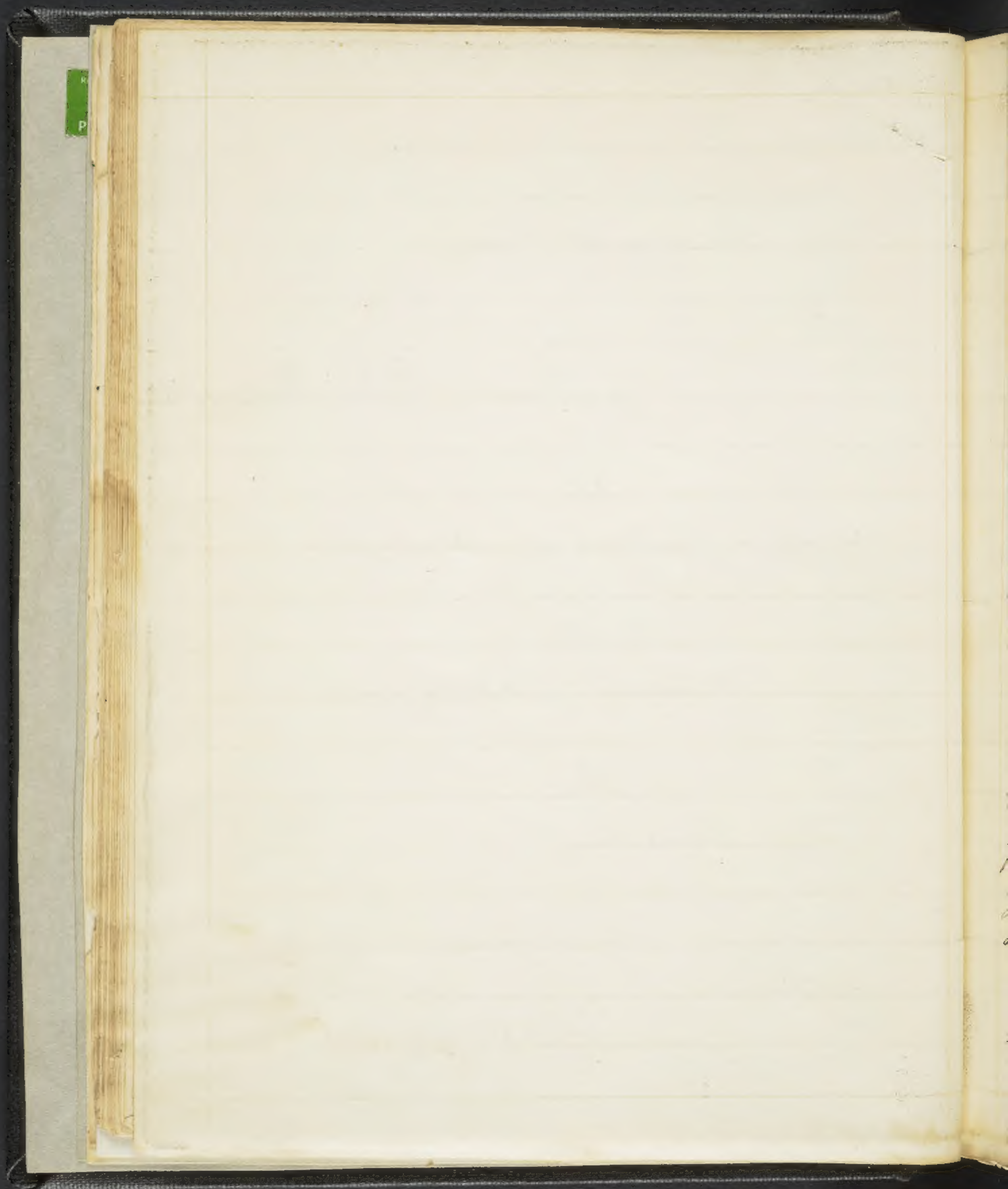
For
The degree of Doctor of Medicine

In the
University of Pennsylvania

By
James M. Inge

of Virginia

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On Gastritis

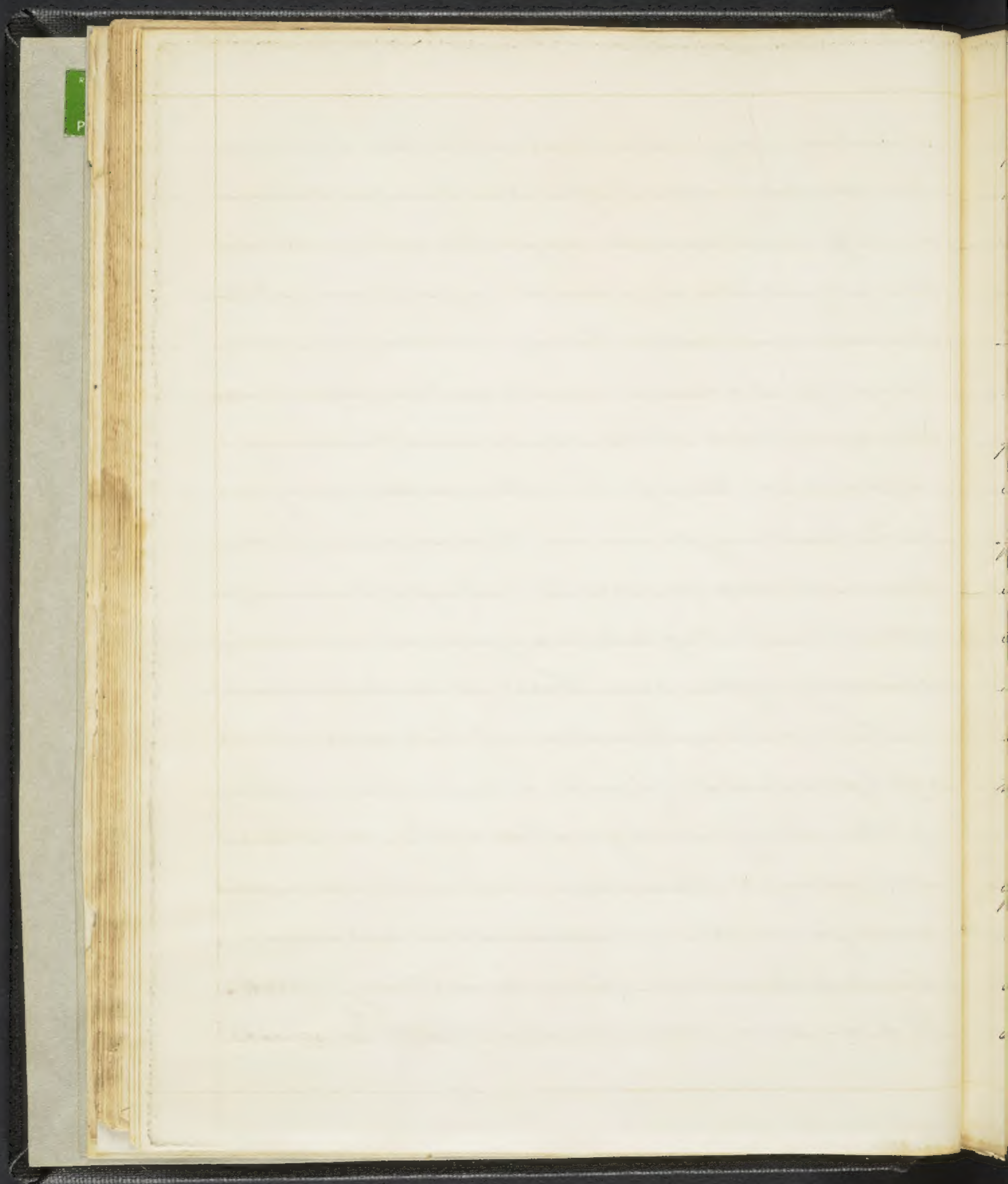
Gastritis is derived from the greek word γαστήρ.
It is by the best authors divided into phlegmonous
and erythematic, or erysipelatous, according to
the different coats of the stomach which may
be affected; though it is the phlegmonous
only of which I intend to treat in this
essay, it being the true inflammation
of the stomach.

Gastritis, or at least that kind of which I
am now treating, may be excited by all the
ordinary causes of inflammation in general,
though more particularly, by exposure to cold.

R
P

by taking very cold drink into the stomach,
 by drinking ardent spirits, by acids taken
 in, by mechanical injuries, as blows on
 the epigastric region, or by poisonous substan-
 ces swallowed either through mistake or inten-
 tionally, as arsenic, corrosive sublimate, or opium.

The symptoms which are characteristic of
 inflammation of the stomach are, a vio-
 lent burning pain in the region of the
 stomach, accompanied with great soreness,
 distension, and flatulency, severe vomiting,
 especially after any thing is swallowed, wheth-
 er it be solid or liquid, most distressing thirst,
 restlessness, anxiety, and a continual tossing
 of the body; with great debility, constant
 watching, delirium, and a pulse, which
 even from the commencement is small,
 hard, and corded, though not very quick.
 It is in some cases attended with a severe



purging or diarrhoea.

If not timely arrested this disease runs its course with great rapidity, attended with an aggravation of all its symptoms, particularly those of debility, accompanied with faintings, short and difficult respiration, cold clammy sweats, hiccups, coldness of the extremities, moist cold surface, wild eye, lank countenance, an intermitting pulse; which are sure indications that the disease is about to terminate in gangrene, and of consequence the speedy termination of the existence of the patient.

These are the most ordinary symptoms of Gastritis. though occasionally we meet with a variety of anomalous affections arising from what have been called delusive symptoms. and Dr Chapman



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in his lectures remarks, that he has seen cases of gastritis, without any evident or marked symptoms, and that dissection alone has revealed the seat of the disease.

Tense or phlegmonous gastritis, may be readily distinguished from any other disease by the burning pain, heat, and tension in the region of the stomach; by the aggravation of the pain when any thing is swallowed, which will be almost immediately rejected, and by the sudden and greater depression of strength in this, than in any other inflammation.

Indeed enteritis is the only disease with which it could be confounded, but from which it may very readily be distinguished by the seat of the pain on pressure with the hand, together with the

more frequent and severe vomiting which attends gastritis.

We may calculate on a favourable termination of gastritis when all the preceding symptoms are mild, and the proper remedies have been applied in time.

The unfavourable prognostics are, great prostration of strength, cold clammy, wild eye, dark countenance, feeble and almost imperceptible pulse, hiccup, with occasional vomiting of dark matter. These with an aggravation of the whole of the symptoms, are the precursors of gangrene, and a sure indication of the fatal termination, seldom avoided.

When it terminates in gangrene, it may be known by the sudden cessation of pain, by the pulse continuing its frequency, but becoming weaker.



and by this it is evident that the disease is in, activity.

Falco notes, "This disease shows a disposition to considerable enlargement of the gland, and a considerable amount of suppuration, even a large abscess, and a considerable degree of suppuration."

The following observations are recorded in the notes of the disease.

The leading indications of cure in this disease are very obvious; we have a violent inflammation retained in a delicate and most important organ, distinguished by its great vascularity, and, therefore, should therefore, so soon as called for, apply the most powerful and efficient remedies; considering at the same time, as these is resection, and, in consequence, there is no other remedy, say, that we should be able to treat, repairing



of the state of the pulse, the degree of
fever or the apparent prostration & strength.

Should we therefore be called in the
early stage of this disease, it will be
proper to take twenty thirty, or even
in some cases, thirty or more the arm,
and by so doing, the system will be
relieved from its apparent prostration,
and a case of inflammation will
be removed, considerably more man-
ageable than the one which had
preceded it.

When the disease has been produ-
ced by active poisons, or has advanced
very far, venesection need not be
carried to such great extent, or perhaps
it need not be performed at all.

Next in importance as an evacuant,
to general bloodletting is topical bleed-



ing by the application of leeches and
cupping; they should be applied over
the whole of the chest, &c.

Distressing & acute must be resorted to,
the distal & acute to be resorted to
to cover the whole of the chest;
and cohering in the same manner
some water or oil to the same, not of hot
water, or a large poultice of corn meal
should be applied to the whole of the
a dressing for a third of time, not over
any very great inflammation in the
case the whole at least in the
last of the patient.

Owing to the irritable state of the
stomach, nothing which is taken into
it can be retained, and we are there-
fore prevented from administering
any remedies internally; to allay



This inevitable however we shall prescribe lime-water and milk, or the effervescent draught, or an arrow, or enema; but should it be necessary to open the bowels, we should prescribe an emollient injection of the milder kind: though acting principally by its mechanical extension, it should be administered in large quantities, and should it not have the desired effect, it should be repeated as often as occasion may require. The following is a good formula.

R. A decoction of green Anise.

or instead thereof a fountain's salt to which add a little castor oil, & rectifier.

So soon as the stomach will bear it we should open the bowels with some laxative medicine, the best for this purpose is calomel, as it is more easily re-



lanced by an irritable stomach, and moreover seems in some degree to possess the power of overcoming inflammatory actions; after the bowels have been moved in this way, they should be kept in a so- lute state by some of the preparations to the mucous coats, the best of which I most easily retained is either the rectal or the chromo salts.

To allay the almost irresistible thirst, which is a run concomitant of gastritis, we should permit our patient to drink occasionally of cold and water or a dilute lemonade though in small quantities, as vomiting might very easily be excited should the stomach be engaged.

When the disease has advanced to that state in which there is an evident tendency to gangrene, phlegmon & by conse-



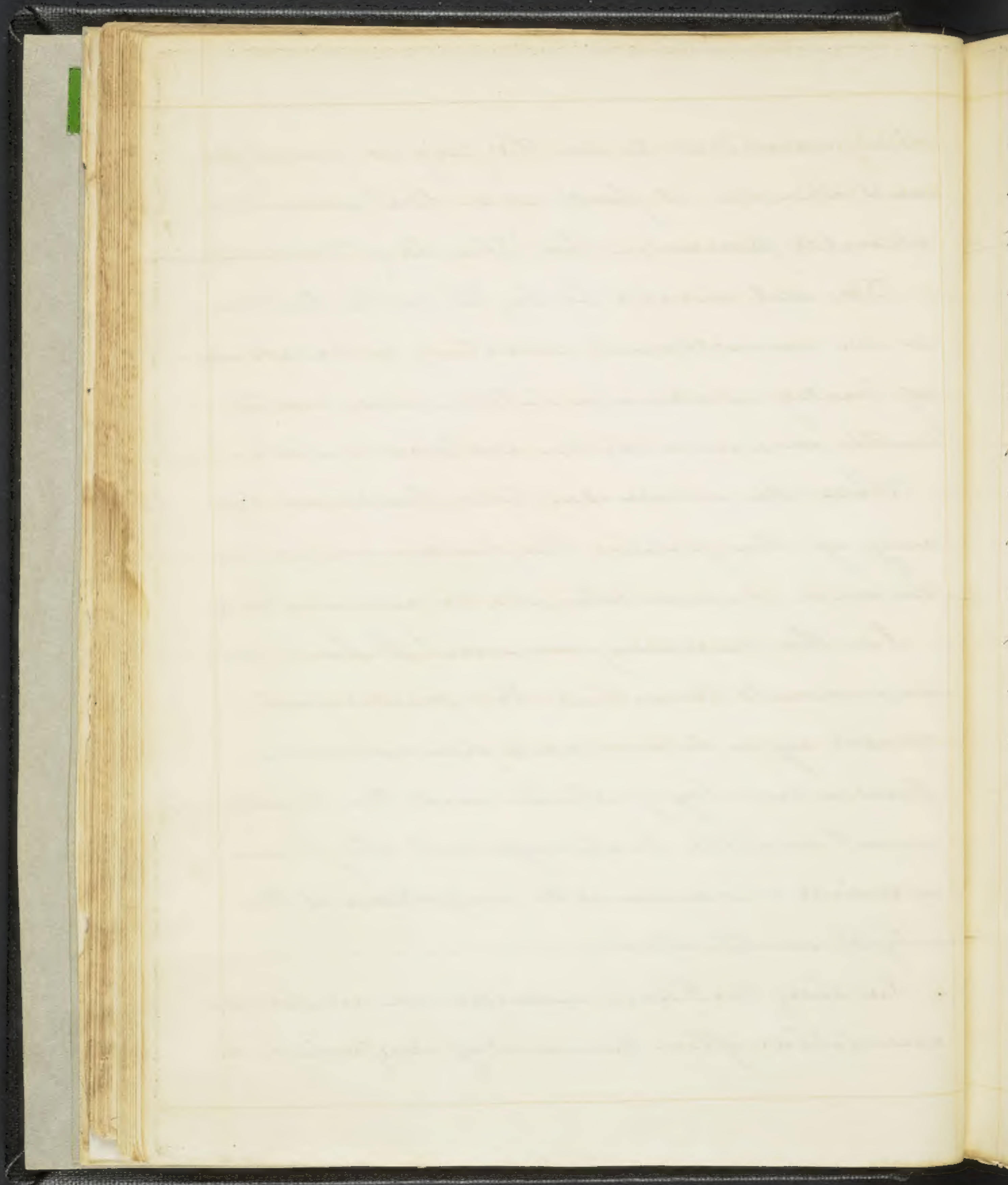
thos admitted to be the proper remedy, and should it fail, as a last resort we should prescribe the Spirits of Turpentine.

The diet should be light, with little or no nourishment, consisting principally of barley water or a little rice water, with cream or tartar water as drink.

When the disease has been produced by any of the poisons the proper antidote to such poisons should be administered.

In the preceding account I have endeavoured to detail the principal causes, symptoms, and phenomena presented by gastritis and the treatment suited to its different stages in as succinct a manner as the importance of the subject would allow.

In doing this I have indulged in no fanciful speculations, often the fruit of inexperienced



vanity, resulting in absurdities, and idle hypotheses; but I have confined myself to a plain treatise on the subject, preferring this to a useless display of words.

It is, however, to be regretted that after all our best directed endeavours have been exerted for the cure of gastritis, we have to acknowledge the melancholy fact, of its oftentimes proving incurable, thus furnishing other evidence of the mortality occasioned by the violence of disease, and demonstrating the strong claims it has upon the careful attention of medical men.

